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CONTINGENT EXTENSION REQUEST

If this communication is filed after the shortened statutory time period had elapsed and no separate Petition is enclosed, the Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks is petitioned, under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a), to extend the time for filing a response to the outstanding Office Action by the number of months which will avoid abandonment under 37 C.F.R. § 1.135. The fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 should be charged to our Deposit Account No. 50-2215.

AMENDMENTS

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Please amend claims 16, 17 and 19 and add new claims 27-33 pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(i) as set forth in the "clean" version set forth below. Entry is respectfully requested. A version with markings to show the changes made pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(c)(1)(ii) is attached hereto as Appendix A.

CLAIMS:

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16. (Amended) An anonymous trading system for trading assets between traders, the system comprising:
a communications network;

a plurality of order input terminals coupled to the communications network, each order input terminal communicates with a respective trader and generates electronic order messages in response thereto; and

the communications network including at least one broker node coupled to a plurality of the order input terminals, the broker node executes anonymous deals between at least some of the traders based on bilateral credit between those traders, the broker node further effectuates a first trade between a first and second trader, notifies the first and second trader of the respective identities of their counterparties, and, thereafter, when requested by at least one of the first and second traders, the broker node effectuates a second trade between the first and second traders without regard to the bilateral credit between the first and second traders.

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17. (Amended) An method for trading assets between traders in an anonymous trading system, the system comprising a communications network, a plurality of order input terminals coupled to the communications network, each order input terminal effective to communicate with a respective trader and to generate electronic order messages in response thereto, the communications network including at least one broker node coupled to a plurality of the order input terminals, each of the broker nodes being effective to execute deals between at least some of the traders based on bilateral credit between respective traders; the method comprising:

effectuating a first trade between a first and a second trader when the bilateral credit between the first and second traders allow;

notifying the first and second trader of the respective identities of their counterparties; and thereafter,

when requested by at least one of the first and second traders, effectuating a second trade between the first and second traders without regard to the bilateral credit between the first and second traders.

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19. (Amended) A method of trading in an anonymous trading system, the method comprising:

performing a first trade between a first and a second trader based on bilateral credit limits;

performing a second trade between the first and the second trader through the anonymous trading system without regard to the credit limits.

20. (New) The anonymous trading system as recited in claim 16, wherein:
the first trade is based on bilateral credit between the first and second trader; and
the second trade requires credit greater than that allowed by the bilateral credit.

21. (New) The anonymous trading system as recited in claim 20, wherein the second trade does not affect the bilateral credit of the first trade.

22. (New) The anonymous trading system as recited in claim 16, wherein the second trade is for trading the assets at substantially the same price as the first trade.

23. (New) The method as recited in claim 17, wherein:
the first trade is based on bilateral credit between the first and second trader; and
the second trade requires credit greater than that allowed by the bilateral credit.

24. (New) The method as recited in claim 23, wherein the second trade does not affect the bilateral credit of the first trade.

25. (New) The method as recited in claim 24, wherein the second trade is for trading the assets at substantially the same price as the first trade.

26. (New) An anonymous trading system for trading assets between traders, the system comprising:
a communications network;

a plurality of order input terminals coupled to the communications network, each order input terminal communicates with a respective trader and generates electronic order messages in response thereto; and

the communications network including a broker node coupled to a plurality of the order input terminals, and at least one matching engine coupled to the broker node, the broker node and matching engine execute anonymous deals between at least some of the traders based on bilateral credit between such traders, the broker node and matching engine further effectuate a first trade between a first and second trader, notify the first and second trader of the respective identities of their counterparties, and, thereafter, when requested by at least one of the first and second traders, the broker node and matching engine effectuate a second trade between the first and second traders without regard to the bilateral credit between the first and second traders.

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27. (New) The anonymous trading system as recited in claim 26, wherein:
the first trade is based on bilateral credit between the first and second trader; and
the second trade requires credit greater than that allowed by the bilateral credit.

28. (New) The anonymous trading system as recited in claim 27, wherein the second trade does not affect the bilateral credit of the first trade.

29. (New) The anonymous trading system as recited in claim 26, wherein the second trade is for trading the assets at substantially the same price as the first trade.

30. An method for trading assets between traders in an anonymous trading system, the system comprising a communications network, a plurality of order input terminals coupled to the communications network, each order input terminal effective to communicate with a respective trader and to generate electronic order messages in response thereto, the communications network including at least one broker node coupled to a plurality of the order input terminals and at least one matching engine coupled to the broker terminal;

the broker terminal and matching engine being effective to execute deals between the traders based on bilateral credit between respective traders;

the method comprising:

effectuating a first trade between a first and a second trader when the bilateral credit between the first and second traders allow;

notifying the first and second trader of the respective identities of their counterparties; and thereafter,

when requested by at least one of the first and second traders, effectuating a second trade between the first and second traders without regard to the bilateral credit between the first and second traders.

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31. (New) The anonymous trading system as recited in claim 30, wherein:
the first trade is based on bilateral credit between the first and second trader; and
the second trade requires credit greater than that allowed by the bilateral credit.

32. (New) The anonymous trading system as recited in claim 31, wherein the second trade does not affect the bilateral credit of the first trade.

33. (New) The anonymous trading system as recited in claim 30, wherein the second trade is for trading the assets at substantially the same price as the first trade.